

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

Griffith Hack  
GPO Box 4164  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

## PCT

### WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) - 4 AUG 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
FP19824

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
**PCT/AU2004/000903**

International filing date (day/month/year)  
5 July 2004

Priority date (day/month/year)  
4 July 2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> A41D 13/05, 13/06, 13/08

Applicant

EVANS, Andrew James

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the opinion   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application  |

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU  
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA  
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au  
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized Officer

**G.B. NATH**

Telephone No. (02) 6283 2126

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

**PCT/AU2004/000903**

**Box No. I      Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
☐ a sequence listing  
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
☐ in written format  
☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
☐ contained in the international application as filed.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

**PCT/AU2004/000903**

**Box No. V**      **Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 2-5	YES
	Claims 1, 6-14	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims None	YES
	Claims 1-14	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-14	YES
	Claims None	NO

**2. Citations and explanations:**

**Documents:**

D1: WO 1993/014730 A (FAURE), 5 August 1993

D2: WO 2002/024014 A (EVANS), 28 March 2002

D3: NZ 280249 A (HOGG), 24 October 1997

D4: GB 2265314 A (SOUTH GLAMORGAN HEALTH AUTHORITY), 29 September 1993

**2.1 Novelty (N) and Inventive Step(IS):**

**a). Novelty:**

D1 is the most relevant document cited in the International Search Report (see the abstract and the figures in particular). D1 discloses all the features of Claim 1 but does not disclose the special features defined in Claims 2-5 thus making the latter novel. Features defined in claims 6-14 relate only to conventional manufacturing techniques or are features which are typical in the devices of the type and are therefore considered not to contribute to inventive ingenuity.

**b). Inventive Step:**

Claim 1, 6-14: See Novelty above. Additional features defined in Claims 2-4 are considered to be an obvious choice to a person skilled in the art when faced with the problem of providing structural integrity to the cuff. Also, D1 when combined with the teachings of D2 takes away Inventive Step of Claims 5 and 10. D2 discloses the special features of claims 5 and 10 (see Claims 1 and 6 in D2).

**2.2 All the claims conform to the criteria of Industrial Applicability**